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RICHMOND COUNTY

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## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release  
October 24, 2020

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### **DA McMahon Continues RCDA's Series of Events to Commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

*\*\*Month of events have included RCDA virtual 'Go Purple' Day, Webinar with Staten Island Family Justice Center focused on DV resources, RCDA 'Day of Action', and Women of Courage Domestic Violence Conference hosted by Central Family Life Center\*\**

Staten Island, NY — Today, Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and his office continued to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month, participating Saturday in the first annual Women of Courage Domestic Violence Conference. The conference, hosted by Dr. Demetrius Carolina, Executive Director, Central Family Life Center, brought together a panel of domestic violence survivors, community faith leaders, law enforcement, and not-for-profit leadership to discuss a range of topics on the issue of domestic violence and also listen to personal testimonies from survivors. RCDA's Domestic Violence Bureau Chief, Victoria Levin, and RCDA Victim Advocate Courtney Chase participated in the conference, speaking about the criminal court process for domestic violence cases, the role of a victim advocate within RCDA, as well as resources available to the community through RCDA and the Staten Island Family Justice Center.

“As we continue to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I am proud to see Staten Islanders coming together to support survivors everywhere,” **said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.** “Throughout this month, we have been working together closely with our partners across the community and City agencies to highlight services and resources available to those in need. These vital services are available year-round through my office's Domestic Violence Bureau and the Staten Island Family Justice Center, and we encourage anyone in need to reach out to us. We know that domestic violence is a serious issue survivors face every day, but we want everyone to know that help is always available.”

Throughout Domestic Violence Awareness month, RCDA has held and participated in several events to offer resources and support to Staten Islanders. These have included:

- **Friday 10/9**, RCDA 'Day of Action' in which RCDA staff raised awareness about domestic violence by placing flyers in local businesses with information on how to access services.
- **Wednesday 10/14**, RCDA held a virtual panel discussion, *#DVAM2020 Webinar*, where panelists discussed the criminal and civil legal processes for domestic violence cases and highlighted services and resources available to victims of domestic and intimate partner violence. The webinar was co-sponsored by The Stat-

en Island Family Justice Center with the Mayor's Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence, Staten Island Legal Services and the Richmond County Domestic Violence Task Force.

- **Thursday 10/22**, members of RCDA held a virtual 'Go Purple' commemoration, joining others throughout the country in wearing the color purple in support of survivors of domestic violence.

Next week event includes:

- **Monday 10/26**, RCDA in partnership with the Mayor's Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence (ENDGBV) will hold an online Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Training for Classique Salon & Spa. RCDA and ENDGBV will team up to host this training to teach salon stylists how to spot signs that their client or colleague may be in an abusive relationship or environment, what to do if that is the case, how to keep themselves safe in the process and what resources are available to those in need.
- **Wednesday 10/28** RCDA will have another Day of Action scheduled with RCDA's Youth Advisory Council.

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